and started to his feet. Looking rapilly through the mail, he picked out the fev business letters, crammed the rest into the drawer and locked it, and then sammoned the office-boy.

"Jack," said he, "do you want to earn twenty dollars?"

The boy stared. "Sure," said he.

"If you do just as I say, you shall," ent on Carlton rapidly. "I am going went on Carlton rapidly. away, to be gone-I don't know-several days anyway. Every morning and afternoon as soon as the mail comes, take it up to my rooms and give it to Jim, my man. If anyone calls for me, just tell them I'm away on my wedding-trip: and mind now, Jack, say I went on the twenty-fifth, that was the day before yesterday. Do you see? I'll let Mr. Wheelesk and Mr. Robinson know. They both will be back this afternoon, and, mind now, Jack, I went away the day before yesterday, the twenty-fifth. I trust you. There's your twenty. That's all, only if everything goes all right there'll be another when I get back."

As Jack, thoroughly mystified but chuckling over his good fortune, departed, Carlton sat down and dashed off letters to his partners. To one he simply stated that he had gone on his weddingtrip, but would return in time for the Lig Bell case. To the older man, Mr. Wheelook, he gave the whole story. telling him in what drawer to find the correspondence and also his suspicions as to the jobe at the bottom of it. He also repeated the instructions he had given to Jack. Then he caught the New-York train,

The next evening Jane sat at her desk, busil writing, trying to keep her thoughts on the per-point. She knew that she was scratching of mere stuff that she would destroy when she was calmer; but she must keep busy; she must not think of that foolish, impulsive thing she had done. Why, why had she done it? What would be think? He probably wore that ring just from habit; but "once and always" Charley her brother had said of him. If that was true—well, it .....ldn't be undone now.

..ere a whistle at the tube interrupted her, and as she answered it a voice said: "A gentleman to see Miss Elton," and in a few minutes came a tap at the door, and the boy announced Carlton.

Jane went forward, ghostly white, but she held out her hand and said steadily "Good-evening, Mr. Carlton."

He paid not the slightest attention to the hand, but said: "Aloha-Jane, did you mean it?"

the looked up. The gray eyes were fire now. She met them bravely for a moment, and they, hiding her face in her hands, said: "I meant it, Harry."

After awhile, when they came back to earth, Carlton said: "How did you come to send it, Jame?" and then she told him the story of the joke.

"They didn't know I ever had met you, Harry. I took that Honolulu trip when you were on your vacation the summer that Charley was in Switzerland, and-well, I never said anything about it.

'Has your career satisfied you, Jane? "Yes, i) a way, a part of me; but-

"But what? Yes, tell me-I want it all -the whole ten years' story."

"Oh, Harry, not to-night,"

"Well, perhaps not to-night, the whole of it. But answer me that 'but,"

"But —I have warted you all the time,"
she confessed. "And if I had known
where you were —I might be known where you were—I might have sent "Aloha" before," she finished bravely.

It needed silence to sufficiently answer that speech; but after awhile Carlton Jane, we are going to be married to-night."

"To-night, Harry? Impossible! I can't, You are crary!"
"No, I'm not," he stoutly declared.

"I have been in New-York for a whole day. What do you think I have been doing? Your brother and his wife and Dr. Humphreys are down-stairs, and so pain and clear the head. 25 doses, 25 cents. are three or four or a dozen—I don't At your druggist's.



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# PROTECT

althonia, Washington, (ter-m, Cohende. We secure to the above States for in-Map of California for EAP RATES.

know how many others-and a cake and a bottle or two and flowers, and they sent me up to break it gently to you.

Jane, Jane, did I do it gently?" He hughed, holding her face between his "Sweetheart, sweetheart, say hards.

me stared at him in utter disbelief; well, there was really no reasonand ten years was a long time for an engineerer; so: "I don't see that I can do anything else," she answered, mouldy enough now, and in another moment the room was filled with a laughing crowd, and Jane was hustled oil to

get ready.

When all were gone except the Eltons, they talked it over. Carlton had hunted up Elton, pledged him to secreey, and then with Mrs. Elton to help the rest was easy enough. The mischief-loving couple enjoyed the joke within a joke most thoroughly, and with little persuadarical to go on to Chicago with sion decided to go on to Chicago with the Carltons next day and give the Alpha Sigma Sigma a rousing reception.

Next morning Chase and Chauncey and Cameron were disturbed at their breakfasts by "A telegram, sir, and the boy says, 'Collect five dollars.'"

A telegram of that length? What could it mean? The message was lorg. and seemed to be a farrage of nonsense, mere words strung together. But out of it the bevildered recipients grasped this much: "Yourself and wife are invited to a last meeting of the Alpha Sigma Sigma Club at Carlton's rooms to-morrow night.

What could it mean? And the telegrams came from New-York too!

Each man called at Carlton's office on his way down town. Off on his weddingtrip. Ye gods! went on the twenty-fif h -that was before he could have receive I any letters! Was it possible he had had that card up his sleeve all the time? At luncheon they met and compared notes, but could come to no conclu-

The next night no time was wasted in keeping the appointment. They found the rooms ablaze with light and fragrant with flowers, and were greeted by a most charming Mrs. Carlton,

Not one word of e planation could they get. Elton or ly shouted with laughter when one ventured a question, although he said that the woman was his sister and that he believed it was an affair of many years' standing, dating back to college days.

As they rose to drink the bride's health, Carlton said:

"Let us drink to the passing or the Alpha Sigma Sigma, Mrs. Chauncey, Mrs. Chase, Mrs. Cameron, Mrs. Carlton, you will find added to your bank accounts one hundred dollars, the price we pay for breaking the rule of that honored club. It no longer exists, and let me say that if its name was an inspiration the deed that was its uncloing was another. If at any time my fellowmembers would like their photographs returned, they may have them by appearing at the office and proving property."

## PREVENTIVE OF MOSAULTOS

A KENTUCKY congressman tells of a Louisville man rather well-known throughout the State for his convivial qualities who last summer visited a friend living in a town on the lower Mississippi. He took with enty years.

The morning after the arrival of the Louisville man, his host, who had risen a ! arlier than usual, encountered the colored nan walking about the grounds.

"I hope your master wasn't annoyed by the mosquitos," observed the head of the place. "I'm sorry to say they're pretty had

just now."

"Oh no, sah!" cheerfully responded the servant. "Las' evenin' Marse John when he interconcated he don't went to bed was so intoxercated he don't mind de skeeters at all, an' dis mornin' de skeeters is so intoxercated dey don't mind Marse John "

YORK CENTRAL HASTE TAKE THE NEW